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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

## INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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DATE DISTR. 14 December 1950

SUBJECT 7th Volkspolizei Bereitschaft  
in Muehlhausen

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## SOURCE

- On 10 October 1950 it was learned that the 7th VP Bereitschaft in Muehlhausen (L 52/H 89) had been equipped with only three or four training guns of German origin prior to the fall of 1950. The unit was issued five Soviet 122-mm artillery pieces in September 1950, and 19 more artillery pieces of the same caliber several weeks later. It was said that 12 additional guns of heavier caliber were earmarked for the Bereitschaft. \*
- On 26 October 1950 the 7th VP Bereitschaft, an artillery unit, was located in Muehlhausen and numbered 750 police, including staff personnel. It was organized into a headquarters, with signal platoon and 70-man Sonderkommando, and three Kommandos. The headquarters has existed since Easter 1950. The 1st Kommando consisted of two computing Abteilungen and one observation Abteilung. The 2nd and 3d Kommandos consisted of three heavy artillery Abteilungen each. Each of the three Kommandos numbered 180 to 200 police.
- The officers of the 7th VP Bereitschaft included VP Kommandeur Ernst (fnu), commanding officer; VP Oberrat Vogel (fnu), PK-Leiter; VP Rat Schmunz (fnu), director of training; VP Rat Ohl (fnu), commanding officer of the 1st Kommando; VP Rat Schrenner (fnu), PK-Leiter of the 1st Kommando; VP Rat Hotzky (fnu), training officer of the 1st Kommando; VP Oberkommissar Fuessler (fnu), commanding officer of the 2nd Kommando; VP Oberkommissar Schuler (fnu), PK-Leiter of the 2nd Kommando; and VP Rat Becker (fnu), commanding officer of the 3d Kommando.
- The artillery equipment of the 7th VP Bereitschaft included four to **six new** Soviet 122-mm howitzers, which were kept locked up; six model 18 light field howitzers and three model 18 heavy field howitzers which were used for training but were unserviceable for combat; and two 75-mm AT guns and one 38-mm AT gun which were not used for training. Each Kommando also had 70 model 98-K carbines, 30 assault rifles, several model 44 submachine guns, several model 38 submachine guns, and four model 34 light machine guns.

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5. The practical training since April 1950 included observation post exercises, construction of observation posts, artillery drill, surveying and aiming practice. Record service practice had not been held by the time of observation. Firing with rifles and machine guns had been discontinued since Easter 1950.
6. The 1st Kommando was made up exclusively of policemen who had completed their basic training. This Kommando has been engaged since April 1950 in instruction on ballistic tables, computing, map reading, map-protractor work, and methods of laying artillery fire. \*\*

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\* [ ] Comment. This is the first information on a VP Pereitschaft which has been fully equipped with Soviet artillery pieces, since twenty-four 122-mm howitzers constitute the standard equipment of two artillery battalions of a Soviet howitzer artillery regiment. If confirmed, the information shows that fully-equipped VP Pereitschaften (Arty) become standard-size artillery regiments.

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\*\* [ ] Comment. The data on the 7th VP Pereitschaft (Arty), including the names of the key personnel, check with previous reports by other sources. See [ ]

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